

Once again, I suddenly find myself in a tangle of procedures and malfunctions. I do not see how ordinary citizens can effectively participate in policy matters such as these, given the research needed for the matter itself, and for the submission process, and for the follow-up when things go wrong (before, during, and after submitting -- Was all this normal?) Nonetheless, as the submission has FINALLY been made (though the disclaimer accompanying the confirmation precludes using the word Successfully, yet), please honor this Motion to Accept the Filing as Timely Filed, for EB Docket No. 04-296, Confirmation Number: 2004114196131, Files: 1; complete with detailed record of filing-problems:

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As of Nov 3 PM: (into early Nov 4)

Reprocessed and rechecked the original submission, now mis-formatted as email.

FINALLY re-submitted.

As instructed, tried to file: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FILING AS TIMELY FILED
but submission form only has: MOTION TO ACCEPT LATE FILED COMMENTS
Hope they're the same thing! (See <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs>)

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As of Nov 3, PM:

Began filling out online submission form, but a warning raised privacy concerns. Called to ask ECFS, but line repeatedly went dead, or operator refused to transfer.

Finally gave up and called direct (long distance, at prime rate)
As FCC surprisingly has no submitter-contact form, (unlike most public-forum websites), decided it was best to just get a NEW email account (yet another mini-mess) for submission-contact, a necessary precaution now for any public post, given all the automated spam-feeding email-address harvesters.

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As of Nov 2, PM:

Called a 4th time, finally got helpful person...
Informed there was no record of submission.
Instructed to resubmit using online form.
Instructed to include a Timely Filed Motion.

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As of Nov 2, AM:

No notice or other result of email submission.
No email or phone reply from Office of Sec.
No returned phone call from ECFS dept.

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To: Ruth.Dancey@fcc.gov
Subject: Fw: filing problem, etc.
Date: Sun, 31 Oct 2004 08:47:53 +0000 [GMT?]

Forwarded as instructed...

Update: Now almost 22 hours and still no ECFS response.

A thought: Perhaps I should just send the submission directly to you, and you send me the Timely-Filed form if needed.

----- Original Message -----

To: William.Caton@fcc.gov

Subject: filing problem, etc.

Date: Sat, 30 Oct 2004 22:03:39 +0000

>

> Hello!

>

> RE: Comments on EB Docket No. 04-296

>

> In spite of best efforts, due to extremely short notice (last 5 of 60 days) and lengthy research, MS-Works repeatedly mangling the document (purely text!) at the last minute, first-time-submitter NPRM and ECFS filing-complexities, EST time vs PST, and email and/or submission problems, the submission apparently missed the deadline (officially 10/29) by a few hours. I do not know, as I have yet, 12 hours later, to receive any confirmation of receipt, acceptance, rejection, or even a mailing-error.

>

> Further, in spite of no announcements on any phone menus (except a political-office hours-notice), and none on the Office of the Secretary home page either, the FCC appears to be (mostly) closed today, so I cannot seek any live help. (but I did leave a message... somewhere.)

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> In addition, in spite of repeatedly searching, I cannot find the "Motion to Accept the Filing as Timely Filed" form, to pursue that recourse in parallel to this one.

>

> I worked very hard on this submission and do not want to see it ignored because it missed a deadline by a few hours.

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> Also, it is not clear how much of the ECFS submission (especially header information) becomes public. With all the data mining by firms selling personal information, I do not want ANY personal information in the header to be public. Depending on how automated the filing system is, it may already be too late, but in this case better late than never.

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> Help would be much appreciated!

>

> Thanks,

> ec

>

> xxx-xxx-xxxx (Please leave message)

>

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Subject: Out of Office AutoReply: filing problem, etc.

Date: Sat, 30 Oct 2004 18:29:14 -0400

Return-Path: <William.Caton@fcc.gov>

Received: (qmail 6939 invoked by uid 0); 30 Oct 2004 22:29:35 -0000

I am out of the office until November 15. If you need immediate assistance,
please contact Ruth Dancey at Ruth.Dancey@fcc.gov

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(end of submission)